

**Guidelines for public consultation –
Assessments under Article 17 for the period 2019-
2024**

Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Conservation status as assessed by Member States	3
3	Assessing Conservation Status by biogeographical or marine region.....	5
3.1	Trends for overall Conservation Status	6
4	Presentation of Assessments and Public Consultation	7
4.1	Viewing Data	7
5	Commenting on the Biogeographical Assessments	11
5.1	How to comment on the biogeographical assessment at the EU level	11
5.2	How to comment on the biogeographical assessment at Member State level as provided by MS?.....	12
6	Appendix 1 - Assessing conservation status of Species and habitats	13
6.1	Species	13
6.2	Habitats	15
7	Appendix 2 - Registration	16

1 Introduction

The 1992 EU Habitats Directive, together with the 1979 Birds Directive, is the most important European legislation aimed at the conservation of the European Union's wildlife. The Habitats Directive is presented as a series of articles together with a number of annexes. Article 11 requires countries to monitor the habitats and species listed in the annexes and Article 17 requires a report to be sent to the European Commission every 6 years following an agreed format – hence 'Article 17 reporting'. The current report covers the period 2019-2024 and concerns 27 EU Member States

The results from Article 17 will be widely used to inform policy and will be included in the relevant State of nature report.

A major part of the Article 17 report is an assessment of the conservation status of all the habitats and species listed on Annexes I & II of the Directive (those for which the countries must propose & designate sites forming part of the Natura 2000 network) together with species noted on Annex IV (species strictly protected) and Annex V (species whose exploitation requires management). This assessment, which is based on the definition of 'Favourable Conservation Status' given in the Directive, is carried out following a methodology agreed by the European Commission and the Member States. This is described in Explanatory Notes and the Guidelines that can be found in the relevant Reference Portal¹. The assessments cover the entire area of each country and are not restricted to the Natura 2000 network.

An assessment of conservation status is carried out for each biogeographical region present in a Member State. This division of Europe into biogeographic regions aims to allow a comparison between areas with similar geography and biodiversity. There are nine biogeographical regions mentioned in the Directive. In addition, five marine regions (Marine Atlantic, Marine Macaronesian, Marine Mediterranean, Marine Baltic & Marine Black Sea) have been added for the purpose of Article 17 reporting (see figure 1).

Where a Member State is entirely within one region, such as Luxembourg, only one report is required for each habitat type and species present. If a Member State is in two or more regions a report is required for each region, for example *Bombina variegata* (Yellow-Bellied toad) in Germany occurs in the Alpine, Atlantic and Continental regions and Germany has reported separately for all three regions.

On top of the reports from the Member States, assessments of Conservation Status across each biogeographic or marine region based on the data sent by the Member States are prepared. These assessments follow a method which is described below and which was developed for the 2001-2006 reporting round in close cooperation with experts of the Habitats Directive Scientific Working Group. The approach has been slightly updated to accommodate the 2019-2024 reporting period but the basic principles remain the same.

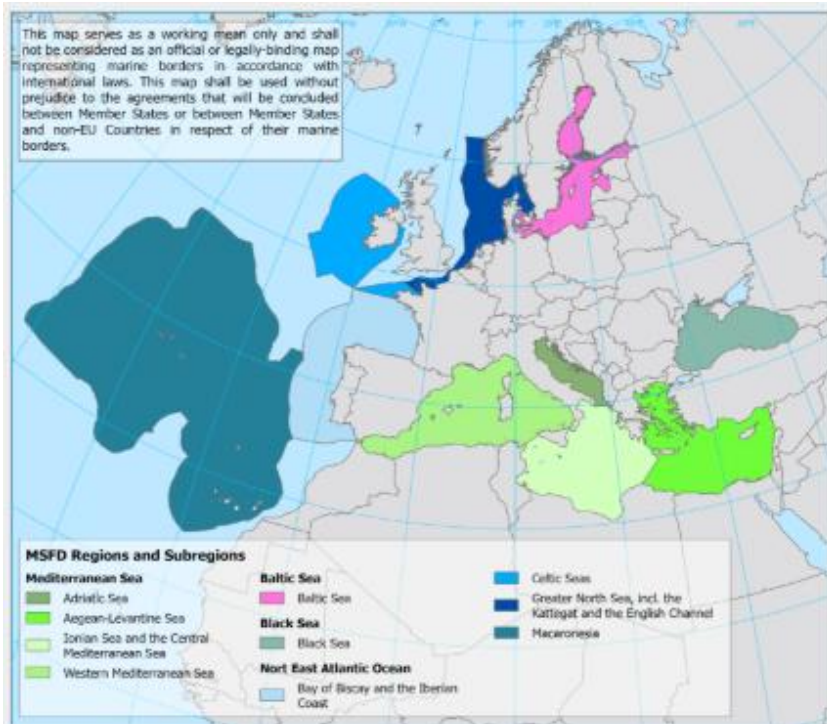
https://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/help/habitats_art17

Figure 1 The biogeographical and marine regions for reporting under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive.



Reference data: © EuroGeographics, © FAO (UN), © TurkStat Source: European Commission - Eurostat/GISCO





2 Conservation status as assessed by Member States

Member States assess conservation status using a method developed for the 2001-2006 reporting round and updated for 2007-2012, 2012-2018 and 2019-2024 rounds. The assessment is based on separate evaluations of four parameters which reflect the definition of Favourable Conservation Status given in the Habitats Directive, the parameters are slightly different for species and habitats and are listed in table 1.

Conservation Status is given as one of three classes

- Favourable
- Unfavourable inadequate
- Unfavourable bad

There is also an 'Unknown' class which can be used where there is insufficient information available to allow an assessment.

For graphical representations, each class is colour coded and given an abbreviation, as shown in table 2. The criteria for assessing each class are given in appendix 1 which also shows how the evaluations of the parameters are combined to give the conclusion of Conservation Status.

Table 1: The parameters for assessments of Conservation Status

Species	Habitats
Range	Range

Population	Area
Habitat for the species	Structure & Functions
Future prospects	Future prospects

Table 2: Abbreviations and colour codes for Conservation Status classes

Conservation Status	Colour	Abbreviation
Favourable	Green	FV
Unfavourable inadequate	Amber	U1
Unfavourable bad	Red	U2
Unknown	Grey	XX

Where assessments of Conservation Status had changed since the previous 2013-2019 reports, Member States were also asked to indicate whether this change was genuine or non-genuine. For cases where a feature – region combination is reported for the first time the main reason for change of status and trend makes no sense. For these cases, the data from MS are replaced in the web tool with the indication ‘First time reported’. (Table 3).

Table 3 Codes used to report nature of change

reported reason for change	code used in the tool for MS	codes used in the Automatic calculations in the assessment tool
there is no difference	noChange	No change (nc)
genuine change	genuine	genuine change (yes)*
improved knowledge/more accurate data	knowledge	non-genuine change (no)
use of different method	method	
nature of change is unknown	unknown	
due to other reasons	other	
no reason reported	NA	NA
first time reported (where no reason for change is requested)	First time reported	

*In the EU biogeographical assessments part of the web tool this is shown as ‘gen’

As described in the next section, a variety of methods have been used to produce EU regional assessments from the Member States assessments. The codes for each methodology are given here but are discussed in more detail below.

Table 4 Methods used to produce EU regional assessments
(G is spatial data, X is tabular data, A is area, P is population, R is range, D is distribution)

Code	Meaning
0EQ	Conclusions for a parameter are the same for all MS within the region
0MS	The habitat or species only occurs in one MS within the region so, unless there are good reasons, the MS assessment is also the EU regional assessment
1	Parameter assessed using the evaluation matrix after summing the MS data. This should only be used for range, population (species) and area and structure and functions (habitat).
2	Parameter weighted and all three different versions of weighting conclude on the same conservation status assessment. This is used only in case of prefilled conclusions.
2XA	Parameter weighted by area of the habitat from Member State data (<i>habitats only</i>)
2XP	Parameter weighted by population from Member State data (<i>species only</i>)
2GD	Parameter weighted by area of distribution from GIS data
2XR	Parameter weighted by range from Member State data
3XA	Overall conclusion weighted by area of habitat from Member State data (<i>habitats only</i>)
3XP	Overall conclusion weighted by population from Member State data (<i>species only</i>)
3GD	Overall conclusion weighted by area of distribution from GIS data
3XR	Overall conclusion weighted by range from Member State data
MTX	Overall conclusion from assessments using methods 1 or 2 of the 4 parameters (only used for overall Conservation Status)

3 Assessing Conservation Status by biogeographical or marine region

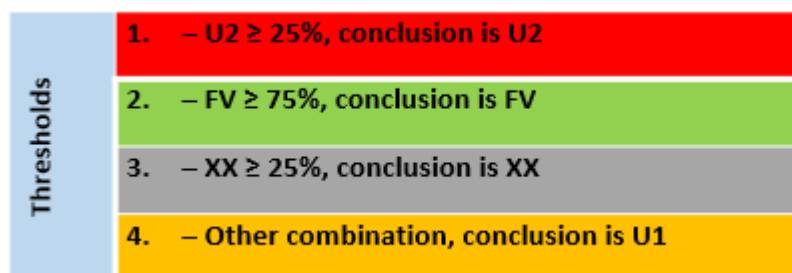
For approximately half of the species and 1/3 of the habitats the conservation status for a whole region is the same as reported by the countries as the habitat and species only occurs in one Member State (e.g. *Calypso bulbosa* in the Alpine region) or all the Member States where it is present have reported the same evaluation (e.g. for the sedge *Carex holostoma* in the Alpine region assessed as 'Favourable').

Ideally the assessment for each biogeographic region at EU level would follow the same method and evaluation matrices as used by the Member States. For 'range', 'population' of species and for 'area' and 'structure and functions' of habitats it is possible, at least in theory, to follow the method used by the Member States (i.e. by using their reported values). However, in many cases a combination of missing data or incompatible data makes this impossible.

Where it was not possible to use the data provided by Member States, the assessments of conservation status for the individual parameters from each Member State have been weighed by the proportion of the species/habitat in each country and then evaluated. The preferred weighting, is by population size for species and surface area for habitats followed by gridded distribution data reported and finally by range if the first two are unusable. Where possible the four parameters are evaluated individually and then combined to give a regional assessment using the same method as used by the countries (i.e. use of the matrix in Annex 1).

Where a weighting has to be used, thresholds are required to give Conservation Status and the following have been used; they are applied in sequence.

Figure 2 Decision making chain to identify qualifiers for conservation status



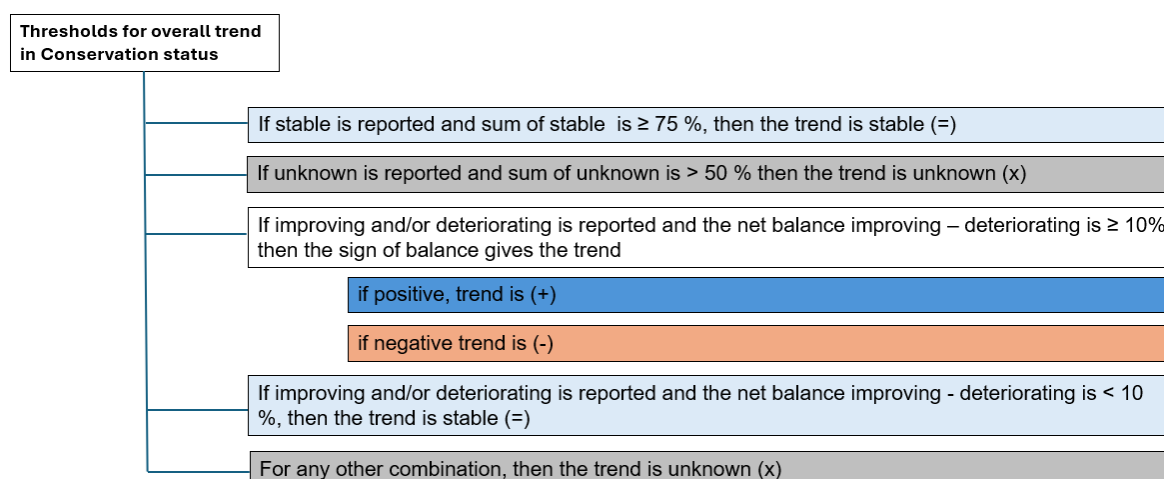
Although these thresholds are arbitrary, trials showed that changing them made little difference to overall conclusions.

3.1 Trends for overall Conservation Status

Given the definition of ‘Favourable conservation status’ in the Habitats Directive, changes in the overall conservation status, for example from unfavourable to favourable or, from Unfavourable bad to unfavourable inadequate - require relatively major changes in the individual conservation status parameters to be noted. The use of ‘trend of the overall conservation status’ allows more subtle changes (improvement or deterioration) of the unfavourable categories to be identified. These can be represented as U1+ (Unfavourable inadequate but improving), U2= (Unfavourable bad and stable), U2- (Unfavourable bad and deteriorating) etc.

The conservation status trends reported by the Member States can be weighted using the same methods as used for the assessments and the EU biogeographical trend is assessed using the following thresholds see figure 4.

Figure 4 Decision making chain to identify qualifiers for conservation status



4 Presentation of Assessments and Public Consultation

The assessments, both by countries and for the EU biogeographical regions are available to the public using a dedicated website at <https://nature-art17.eionet.europa.eu/article17/>

This website will also be used for the public consultation as there, it is possible to comment on the EU biogeographical assessments completed by EEA and its contractors. Once the consultation period is finished EEA and its contractors will revise the biogeographical assessments.

The use of the website is explained in further detail below.

Figure 5 The homepage of the Article 17 reporting website

Welcome to the Article 17 web tool on biogeographical assessments of conservation status of species and habitats under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

This page gives access to assessments at Member State biogeographical level done by Member States and at EU biogeographical level done by the EEA, ETCs and contractors. A summary of the methodologies used for the biogeographical assessments at EU level can be found [here](#) and a step-by-step guide for using the tool can be found [here](#).

The public consultation for the Article 17 biogeographical assessments of conservation status of species and habitats is now open until 16 August 2026 .

While you can view the assessments (Data reported by Member States and EU biogeographical assessments) without being registered for consultation it is necessary to register if you would like to add comments. Below are two links allowing you to actively participate in this process: [whether you have an existing Eionet account or not](#).

- If you have an Eionet account please [log in](#). If you have forgotten your eionet password please update it from this link <https://www.eionet.europa.eu/password-reset>.
- If you don't have an Eionet account please [register here](#).
- If you need a new Eionet account please request it by writing in service@eea.europa.eu mentioning that you need it for participating in consultation of EU assessments using the Art 17 web tool.

1

Any personal data you submit in the context of this consultation will be processed in accordance with the personal data protection regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of 23 October 2018. Please find below a [Privacy Statement](#) for your consideration.

The guidelines for consultation provide essential information on methods for EU biogeographical assessments, use of this viewing tool and guidance for those who wish to participate in the public consultation.

Biogeographical assessments at EU level:

- Species assessments
- Habitats assessments

2

Biogeographical assessments at Member State level:

- Species assessments
- Habitats assessments

3

Summary of assessments by group:

- Species assessments
- Habitats assessments

4

- 1 Registration (see Appendix 2)
- 2 Biogeographical assessments at EU 27 level
- 3 Biogeographical assessments at Member State level
- 4 Summary of assessments by group

4.1 Viewing Data

Anybody can view the data as provided by Member States as well as the EU biogeographical assessments.

On the home page, click

[Species assessments](#)

[Habitats assessments](#)

Under the heading ‘**Biogeographical assessments at EU 27 level:**’ you will be directed to a page (see figure 6) where it is possible to select species or habitats and to see the assessments of Conservation Status.

Figure 6 Selecting species and period

Species assessments at EU biogeographical level

The Article 17 web tool provides an access to EU biogeographical and Member States' assessments of conservation status of the habitat types and species of Community interest compiled as part of the Habitats Directive - Article 17 reporting process. These assessments have been carried out in EU 25 for the period 2001-2006, in EU 27 for the period 2007-2012, in EU 28 for the period 2013-2018 and in EU 27 for the period 2019-2024.

Choose a period, a group, then a species belonging to that group. Optionally, further refine your query by selecting one of the available biogeographical regions for that species. Once a selection has been made the conservation status can be visualised in a map view.

The 'Data sheet info' includes notes for each regional and overall assessment per species.

The 'Audit trail' includes the methods used for the EU biogeographical assessments and justifications for decisions made by the assessors.

To view the assessments:

- 1 select the period (period 2019-2024 is preselected)
- 2 select the group from the drop-down menu
- 3 select the species/habitat from the drop-down menu (typing the start of the name will take you to the appropriate part of the list)
- 4 Select either a region or 'all bioregions'
- 5 click on 'filter'

This will lead to page showing the MS regional assessments and the EU biogeographical assessment for the species/habitat selected (figure 7).

Figure 7 Assessment of the Conservation Status of a species (*Martes martes* in the Pannonian region)

Species assessments at EU biogeographical level

The Article 17 web tool provides an access to EU biogeographical and Member States' assessments of conservation status of the habitat types and species of Community interest compiled as part of the Habitats Directive - Article 17 reporting process. These assessments have been carried out in EU 25 for the period 2001-2006, in EU 27 for the period 2007-2012, in EU 28 for the period 2013-2018 and in EU 27 for the period 2019-2024.

Choose a period, a group, then a species belonging to that group. Optionally, further refine your query by selecting one of the available biogeographical regions for that species. Once a selection has been made the conservation status can be visualised in a map view.

The 'Data sheet info' includes notes for each regional and overall assessment per species.

The 'Audit trail' includes the methods used for the EU biogeographical assessments and justifications for decisions made by the assessors.

Member States reports

MS	Range (km ²)				Population										Habitat for the species				Future prospects				Overall assessment				Distribution area (km ²)									
	Surface	Status (% MS)	Trend	FRR	Range vs FRR predefined	Min	Max	Best value	Unit	Size class in individuals	Type est.	Method	Status (% MS)	Trend	Trend magnitude min-max	FRR	Population vs RFP predefined	Unit	Area occupied sufficient	Quality occupied sufficient	Unoccupied suff.	Status	Trend	Range prosp.	Population prosp.	Hab. for sp. prosp.	Status	Curr. CS	Curr. CS trend	Prev. CS	Prev. CS trend	Status Nat. of ch.	CS trend Nat. of ch.	Distrib.	Method	% MS
CZ	3350	3.31	U	predefined	2-10	N/A	N/A	N/A	I	4	estimate	completeSurvey	2.19	Link	x	x			yes	Yes		FV	S	good	unk	good	FV	FV	Link	FV	S	genuine	genuine	1100	estimated/cert	2.86
HU	29131	73.48	U	predefined	seq	N/A	N/A	N/A	I	7	estimate	estimatedExpert	17.67	S	0.112	predefined	seq		yes	Unknown		XX	S	good	good	good	FV	FV	S	ST	S	genuine	noChange	31400	31400	11.77
RO	2760	5.41	Link	predefined	seq	443	493	N/A	I	N/A	minimum	completeSurvey	2.21	Link	x	493	I	yes	unknown	unknown		FV	S	good	good	good	FV	FV	Link	FV	I	knowledge	knowledge	100		0.26
SK	4508.13	13.24	S	predefined	2-10	1000	5000	N/A	I	N/A	estimate	estimatedExpert	4.27	S	x	predefined	5-25		yes	No		XX	S	good	poor	poor	XX	XX	S	XX	S	noChange	noChange	5800		15.10

EU Biogeographical assessment and proposed corrections

Doc	MS/EU27	Surface	Status Range	Trend	FRR	Range vs FRR predefined	Min	Max	Best value	Unit	Status Population	Trend	Trend magnitude (min)	FRR	Population vs RFP predefined	Unit	Status Hab. for species	Trend	Range prosp.	Population prosp.	Hab. for sp. prosp.	Status Future prop.	Curr. CS	Curr. CS trend	Prev. CS	Prev. CS trend	Status Nat. of ch.	CS trend Nat. of ch.	Method	% MS	
OK	EU27	39639.33	2	x	40461.06		11943.0	56493.0	34218	I	2	-	>35594.82		I	2	-						2	MTX	-	XX	-	gen	nc	EU	8

- 1 Select period, species/habitat and region
- 2 Click to open audit trail and/or map
- 3 Information from countries
- 4 EU biogeographical assessment
- 5 Not registered user can only view the assessment and not participate in the consultation

The page presents the status of each of the four parameters together with some of the data used (and links to more) for each Member State. The webpage also shows the EU biogeographical assessment with access to an 'audit trail' which explains which method was chosen and why (figure 8). There is also an option to see a map showing the distribution in a selected biogeographical region or overall, coded by the Member States assessments (Figure 9).

Figure 8 **An Audit trail (species *Aradus angularis* in the Boreal region)**

Audit Trail

Please select a region in order to edit.

Boreal

BOR *Aradus angularis*

General information: NA

Range: Since data availability for the species population seems limited in SE, and as FI is home to nearly 89% of the population, but the population status is unknown and was determined using method c, method 2GD was subsequently used. As SE holds the larger share of the species range and is arguing that the species range is stable in the short term, based on expert opinion, this evaluation is followed.

Population: According to the above-mentioned arguments method 2GD was used. Since FI holds the major share of the population and reports an unknown trend, the trend is set to unknown.

Habitat for species: Method 2GD was used with a stable trend. With regard to the trend, the reasoning put forward by SE was followed: "The species inhabits coniferous forests recently affected by forest fires, a minor part of the 9010 Western Taiga habitat type. Results from limited monitoring of the species indicate a stable population and range—and thus stable habitat occupancy—over both the short and long term. Very little is known about the species' status in 1995. Over the long term, controlled burning has increased, while natural forest fires have slowly decreased. The exact quality components are unknown. Therefore, the assessment is: area 'stable' / quality 'stable' in both the short and long term. Limited population data is available, so the assessment of occupied habitat is based on expert opinion."

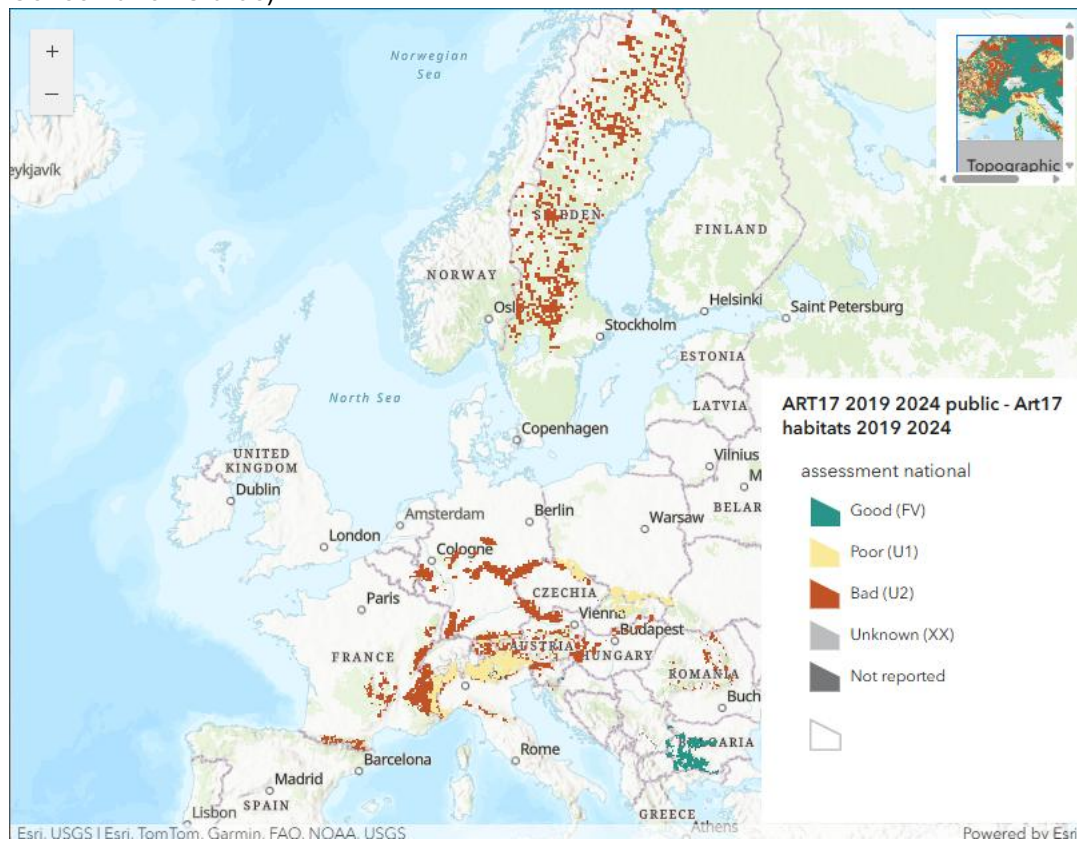
Future prospects: Method 2GD was used.

Overall Conclusion: The overall assessment for the BGR remained U2. The trend changed from deteriorating to unknown. Prefilled method MTX was accepted.

Nature of change: nc, CS trend changes due to improved knowledge (no).

Often the audit trails use the method codes given in table 4 above and the standard 2 letter codes for the Member States (e.g. FR for France).

Figure 9 Map showing the distribution of 6250 Mountain hay meadows (colours indicate Conservation Status)



It is also possible to see assessments for one or all Member State for a group of habitats or species by clicking on Species assessments or Habitat assessments under the heading ‘Biogeographical assessments at Member State level’ on the homepage (see figure 10) or to see a summary of the EU biogeographical assessments of all the species or habitats in a group under the heading ‘Summary of assessments by group’, for example all mammals or all forests (see figure 11).

Figure 10 Assessment of Conservation Status by Member State (Grasslands in Estonia)

Habitat assessments at Member State level

Choose a period, a group and then a country. Optionally, further refine your query by selecting one of the available biogeographical regions for that country.

Period... 2019-2024 Group... Grasslands Country... Estonia Bio-region... All bioregions Filter

Note: Rows in italic shows data not taken into account when performing the assessments (marginal presence, occasional, extinct prior HD, information, etc)

The delayed delivery by Spain did not allow the Spanish report to be used for the EU conservation status assessment. Where possible, Spanish data from the period 2013-2019 were used for the EU assessments of 2019-2024. You can see a relevant technical note here.

Legend: **FV** Favourable **XX** Unknown **U1** Unfavourable-Inadequate **U2** Unfavourable-Bad

Current selection: 2019-2024, Grasslands, Estonia, All bioregions.

Habitat	Region	Range (km ²)				Area (km ²)				Structure and functions (km ²)				Future prospects				Overall assessment				Distribution area (km ²)											
		Surface	Status (NMS)	Trend	FRR	range vs FRR predefined	Min	Max	Best value	Type est.	Method	Status (NMS)	Trend	Trend magnitude min-max	FRA	Area vs FRA predefined	Good	Not good	Not known	Status	Trend of good condition	Range prior	Area prior	S & I prior	Status	Cur. CS	Prev. CS	Prev. CS trend	Status Nat. of ch.	CS trend Nat. of ch.	Distrib.	Method	% MS
6210 - Semi-natural dry grasslands s...	BOR	32200	13.48	S	predefined	aeq	43	61	N/A	estimate	completedSurvey	19.85	S	predefined	aeq	27-27	16-16	N/A-18	U2	I	good	poor	poor	U1	U2	I	U1	S	method	genuine	23600	completedSurvey	12.56
6270 - Fenoscandian lowland spect...	BOR	49300	6.19	S	predefined	aeq	35	41	N/A	estimate	completedSurvey	22.72	S	predefined	aeq	16-16	19-19	N/A-5	U2	I	good	poor	poor	U1	U2	I	U1	S	method	genuine	26700	completedSurvey	5.94
6280 - Heidalv and precalcare...	BOR	18700	42.60	S	predefined	aeq	N/A	N/A	100	estimate	completedSurvey	47.42	S	predefined	aeq	56-56	12-12	23-32	U1	I	good	good	good	FV	U1	I	U1	I	noChange	genuine	12700	completedSurvey	45.85
6410 - Molinia meadows on calcare...	BOR	21200	4.88	S	predefined	aeq	10	20	N/A	estimate	estimatePartial	7.88	S	predefined	aeq	10-20	N/A-N/A	N/A-N/A	FV	S	good	good	good	FV	FV	S	FV	S	noChange	noChange	14100	estimatePartial	5.07
6490 - Hydrophilous tall herb fringe...	BOR	47600	12.50	S	predefined	aeq	N/A	N/A	20	minimum	estimatePartial	21.14	S	predefined	aeq	20-20	N/A-N/A	N/A-4	FV	S	good	good	good	FV	FV	S	FV	S	noChange	noChange	25000	estimatePartial	13.53
6490 - Northern boreal alluvial mead...	BOR	33900	8.55	S	predefined	aeq	160	190	N/A	estimate	completedSurvey	29.82	S	predefined	aeq	140-140	20-20	14-28	U1	I	good	good	good	FV	U1	I	U1	D	noChange	genuine	17300	completedSurvey	8.79
6510 - Lowland hay meadows (Acp...	BOR	49800	16.92	S	predefined	aeq	N/A	N/A	30	minimum	completedSurvey	17.81	S	predefined	aeq	27-27	N/A-N/A	3-8	FV	S	good	good	good	FV	FV	S	FV	S	noChange	noChange	30000	completedSurvey	11.39
6590 - Fenoscandian wooded mea...	BOR	33900	18.28	S	predefined	aeq	20	40	N/A	estimate	completedSurvey	34.02	S	predefined	aeq	14-14	6-6	N/A-20	U2	I	good	good	poor	U1	U2	I	U2	Unk	noChange	genuine	19400	completedSurvey	21.09

Figure 11 Summary of assessments for a species or habitat group (Rocky habitats)

Habitat assessments at EU biogeographical level

Choose a period, a group, a conclusion type and press the *Filter* button. You will get an overview of the assessment for the habitat in that group over the various biogeographical regions. Move the mouse over each cell in order to get more details about that assessment. Clicking on each cell will lead you to the full detailed page of that habitat in the chosen region.

Period... 2019-2024 Group... Rocky habitats Conclusion... overall assessment Filter

Note: The conservation status colours are explained on mouse over. Rows in italic shows data not taken into account when performing the assessments (marginal presence, occasional, extinct prior HD, information, etc). Select from "Period..." value "2001-20

Legend: FV Favourable XX Unknown U1 Unfavourable-Inadequate U2 Unfavourable-Bad

Current selection: 2019-2024, Rocky habitats, overall assessment.

Habitats	Regions													
	ALP	ATL	BLS	BOR	CON	MAC	MED	PAN	MATL	STE	MBAL	MMAC	MMED	MBLS
8110 - Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels	FV	U1		FV	FV		XX							
8120 - Calcareous & calcistat screes of montane to alpine lev.	FV	U1		FV	FV		U1							
8130 - Western Mediterranean and thermophilous screes	XX	U1			U1				U1					
8140 - Eastern Mediterranean screes							FV							
8150 - Medio-European upland siliceous screes	XX	U2			U1		XX	FV						
8160 - Medio-European calcareous scree of hill & montane level	FV	U2			FV			FV						
8210 - Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	FV	U1	FV	U2	FV			U1	FV					
8220 - Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	FV	U1	FV	FV	FV	U1		U1	FV					
8230 - Siliceous rock with pioneer veg. Sedo-Sclerathion/Veron	FV	U1	U1	U2	FV	U1		U1	U1				FV	
8240 - Limestone pavements	FV	U1		U2	U2			U1						
8310 - Caves not open to the public	FV	U2	U1	FV	U1	FV		U1	FV				FV	
8320 - Fields of lava and natural excavations						U1		U2						
8330 - Submerged or partially submerged caves									FV		U1	XX	FV	FV
8340 - Permanent glaciers														U2

5 Commenting on the Biogeographical Assessments

Any user can view the data, but only registered users can insert comments during the consultation period. The registration process is described in **Appendix 2**.

During the consultation period registered users are invited to comment on the following issues:

1. The biogeographical assessments at the EU level
2. The Member States biogeographical assessments as reported by MS

In order to assure the clarity and relevance of comments, the stakeholders participating in the public consultation are invited to use the facilities of the Article 17 web tool to submit their comments. Commenting on the EU biogeographical assessments or assessments from Member States consist of filling in (partially) the ‘assessment’ line of the web tool. Any registered user is allowed to add only one record (for each assessment and type of comment), edit his/her records, mark own records for deletion and undelete own records.

5.1 How to comment on the biogeographical assessment at the EU level

To provide a comment related to the EU biogeographical assessments the ‘assessment’ line of the web tool must be filled in as described below. To provide a comment make sure you have selected the proper bioregion of the habitat / species you want to comment on:

Figure 13 Commenting on biogeographical assessment at the EU level



- 1 Verify that under the heading “MS/EU27” the value “EU27” is selected
- 2 Insert a CORRECTION by filling ONLY the fields that are considered to be wrong or doubtful in the original EEA / Contractors assessment and that ideally differ from the given assessment. For example, if the conclusion on population assessed as 'U2' is considered wrong, you may select for example 'U1' from the drop down list
- 3 Click the “Add assessment” button
- 4 A window for implementing comments should appear. Alternatively, click on the blue box with 0/0 which will appear next to your name and insert text in **ENGLISH**. The text should explain why you think the assessment is incorrect. *If no explanation is provided the comment will not be considered.* As an example, you might write *'The assessment for population seems correct as the values provided by the Member States are correct, but the favourable reference population provided by Member State X seems overestimated'*.
- 5 Click the 'Add comment' button
- 6 If necessary, click on the text '1/1' to see your comment, to change it or to mark it as deleted

If necessary, click on text 'edit' or 'delete' to change or delete your proposed correction. It may be necessary to refresh your browser to see that the comment has been added.

5.2 How to comment on the biogeographical assessment at Member State level as provided by MS?

A registered user may also comment on a biogeographical assessment from a Member State if **this is influencing the EU biogeographical assessment.**

The process is similar to that described above, except for step 1.

To comment on a specific Member State select its two digit code under the heading 'MS/EU27' (e.g. below).



6 Appendix 1 - Assessing conservation status of Species and habitats

6.1 Species

Parameter	Conservation Status			
	Favourable ('green')	Unfavourable - Inadequate ('amber')	Unfavourable - Bad ('red')	Unknown (insufficient information to make an assessment)
Range (within the biogeographical region concerned)	Stable (loss and expansion in balance) or increasing AND not smaller than the 'favourable reference range'	Any other combination	Large decline: Equivalent to a loss of more than 1% per year within period specified by MS i. <u>OR</u> more than 10% below favourable reference range	<i>No or insufficient reliable information available</i>
Population	Population(s) not lower than 'favourable reference population' AND reproduction, mortality and age structure not deviating from normal (if data available)	Any other combination	Large decline: Equivalent to a loss of more than 1% per year (indicative value MS may deviate from if duly justified) within period specified by MS AND below 'favourable reference population' <u>OR</u> More than 25% below favourable reference population <u>OR</u> Reproduction, mortality and age structure strongly deviating from normal (if data available)	<i>No or insufficient reliable information available</i>
Habitat for the species	Area of habitat is sufficiently large (and stable or increasing) AND habitat quality is suitable for the long-term survival of the species	Any other combination	Area of habitat is clearly not sufficiently large to ensure the long-term survival of the species <u>OR</u> Habitat quality is bad, clearly not allowing long-term survival of the species	<i>No or insufficient reliable information available</i>
Future prospects (as regards to population, range and	Main pressures and threats to the species not significant; species will remain viable on the long-term	Any other combination	Severe influence of pressures and threats to the species; very bad prospects for its future, long-term viability at risk.	<i>No or insufficient reliable information available</i>

Parameter	Conservation Status			
	Favourable ('green')	Unfavourable - Inadequate ('amber')	Unfavourable - Bad ('red')	Unknown (insufficient information to make an assessment)
habitat availability)				
Overall assessment of CS	All 'green' OR three 'green' and one 'unknown'	One or more 'amber' but no 'red'	One or more 'red'	Two or more 'unknown' combined with green or all "unknown"

6.2 Habitats

Parameter	Conservation Status			
	Favourable ('green')	Unfavourable – Inadequate ('amber')	Unfavourable - Bad ('red')	Unknown (insufficient information to make an assessment)
Range (within the biogeographical/marine region concerned)	Stable (loss and expansion in balance) or increasing AND not smaller than the 'favourable reference range'	Any other combination	Large decrease: Equivalent to a loss of more than 1% per year within period specified by MS OR More than 10% below 'favourable reference range'	<i>No or insufficient reliable information available</i>
Area covered by habitat type within range²	Stable (loss and expansion in balance) or increasing AND not smaller than the 'favourable reference area' AND without significant changes in distribution pattern within range (if data available)	Any other combination	Large decrease in surface area: Equivalent to a loss of more than 1% per year (indicative value MS may deviate from if duly justified) within period specified by MS OR With major losses in distribution pattern within range OR More than 10% below 'favourable reference area'	<i>No or insufficient reliable information available</i>
Specific structure and functions (including typical species³)	Structures and functions (including typical species) in good condition and no significant deteriorations / pressures	Any other combination	More than 25% of the area is unfavourable as regards its specific structures and functions (including typical species) ⁴	<i>No or insufficient reliable information available</i>
Future prospects (as regards range, area covered and specific structures and functions)	The habitats prospects for its future are excellent / good, no significant impact from threats expected; long-term viability assured	Any other combination	The habitats prospects are bad, severe impact from threats expected; long-term viability not assured.	<i>No or insufficient reliable information available</i>
Overall assessment of CS	All 'green' OR three 'green' and one 'unknown'	One or more 'amber' but no 'red'	One or more 'red'	Two or more 'unknown' combined with green or all 'unknown'

² There may be situations where the habitat area has decreased as a result of management measures to restore another Annex I habitat or habitat of an Annex II species. The habitat could still be considered to be at 'Favourable Conservation Status' but in such cases give details in the Complementary Information section ('Other relevant information') of Annex D

³ See definition of typical species in the Explanatory Notes and Guidelines

⁴ E.g. by discontinuation of former management, or is under pressure from significant adverse influences, e.g. critical loads of pollution exceeded

7 Appendix 2 - Registration

Anybody is able to view data without being registered, but only registered users are able to comment on the biogeographical assessment at the regional level as assessed by EEA / Contractors and to comment on MS reports if relevant for the EU assessment.

The consultation will run from **13 July to 16 August 2026**.

Important: All the users with an Eionet account can be logged in and registered with their eionet account. If you have an eionet account but have forgotten your eionet password please update it from this link <https://www.eionet.europa.eu/password-reset> . If you have an eionet account but have forgotten it, please write to ServiceDesk@eea.europa.eu .

Users with an eionet account can register to the consultation by clicking on the button 'log in' in the phrase : If you have an Eionet account please [log in](#).

A window will open asking for your username and password

Username:

Password:

For other users without an eionet account :

Click on the button 'Register here' from the phrase: If you don't have an Eionet account please [register here](#)

Then complete and submit the registration form:

Article 17 > users list > registration (local account)

Register a new account

Full name*	<input type="text"/>	Username*	<input type="text"/>
Institution	<input type="text"/>	Email address*	<input type="text"/>
Abbrev.	<input type="text"/>	Password*	<input type="password"/>
Member State	<input type="text"/>		

fields marked with asterisk (*) are required